

LDCM Workshop: USGS Overview

- **Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992 identifies four options for LDCM funding and operations**
 - **Private sector**
 - **International consortium**
 - **U.S. government**
 - **Cooperative U.S. gov't/private sector effort**

HOW CURRENT SYSTEMS FIT THESE CATEGORIES:

- **One end of spectrum: “Public Good” satellites, as in NOAA meteorological satellites**
 - **Fully funded by taxpayers**
 - **Designed and built in a series, not one expensive mission at a time**
 - **Data are in public domain at little or no cost**
 - **Value-added resellers take it from there with few or no restrictions**
- **Other end of spectrum: Commercial high-resolution satellites, as in IKONOS, Quickbird, and ORBVIEW**
 - **Funded by large private investments that must be recovered**
 - **Designed and built in a series, not one expensive mission at a time**
 - **Data are sold or licensed to users at profitable commercial rates**
 - **Distributors and value-added resellers establish business relationships directly with data providers**
- **Between these extremes: Government/private sector partnerships, as in SPOT, RADARSAT, IRS**
 - **Satellites entirely or primarily funded by government**
 - **Clear commitment to private sector's role well before launch**
 - **Data are sold or licensed to users at profitable commercial rates**
 - **Distributors and value-added resellers establish business relationships directly with data providers**
 - **International examples show consistent approach**
 - **Landsat 4/5 government/commercial effort didn't fully fit this model and didn't work out as intended**

- Landsat 7 ALMOST fits “Public Good” model, but:
 - Single, expensive gap-filler mission
 - Taxpayers funded satellite, sensor, and flight operations, but not final data processing/distribution costs
 - Data are in public domain at COFUR, but \$600 per scene leaves some users out of luck
 - Data distributors and value-added resellers take it from there with no restrictions

WHERE LDCM MIGHT FIT IN

- LDCM workshop investigates “Data Buy” concept; would most resemble option of Government/Private Sector effort; raises questions such as:
 - What do we mean by data continuity? (data specification)
 - How much funding/operation by private sector?
 - Designed and built in a series?
 - Which data in public domain? Which sold/licensed commercially?
 - Where do data distributors and value-added resellers fit in?

These and other LDCM questions will be addressed in this workshop and through further on-line interchanges.